

## COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH

Erie County is searching for an individual to lead the Department of Mental Health as Commissioner. The mission statement of Erie County Department of Mental Health is to provide administrative leadership and ensures the coordination of a community based behavioral health system that is accessible, comprehensive, cost effective, person centered and recovery focused for and accountable to its citizens. The Department of Mental Health oversees mental disability services for over 48,000 Erie County residents each month through contracts with 42 community based agencies, including the Erie County Medical Center and Erie County Departments of Senior Services, Social Services and Youth Services. The Department of Mental Health is administratively responsible for planning, directing, coordinating, and monitoring programs of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation involving mental health, mental retardation-developmental disabilities, problem gambling and, alcohol and substance abuse services. A wide range of services and programs are provided within the City of Buffalo and fifteen municipalities throughout Erie County.

The Commissioner is the chief executive officer of the department and is charged with the responsibility for planning, directing and coordinating community mental health services for Erie County. The incumbent performs professional administrative work relating to the planning, coordination and operation of mental health, alcohol and substance abuse, and mental retardation services provided within the County. The incumbent is responsible for both financial and professional planning and for maintaining a high standard of behavioral health services in accordance with the needs of the County and applicable Federal, State and local laws. The Commissioner recommends action and policies to the Community Services Board for the purpose of establishing and maintaining comprehensive programs. Work is performed under the general direction of the County Executive and in conjunction with the Erie County Department of Mental Health Community Services Board.

Qualifications: Candidates must meet one of the following educational qualifications and in addition must meet each of the experience qualifications below:

### EDUCATION

- A. Possession of a current valid license to practice medicine in New York State and board qualification or board eligibility as a psychiatrist or neurologist by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, or as a pediatrician by the American Board of Pediatrics; or:
- B. Certification as psychologist in accordance with Article 153 of the Education Law, possession of a Doctorate in Psychology conferred by a university regionally accredited or registered by the New York State Education Department; or:
- C. Certification as a Social Worker in accordance with Article 154 of the Education Law, possession of a Master's Degree in Social Work conferred by a university regionally accredited or registered by the New York State Education Department; or:
- D. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered or university with a Master's Degree in psychiatric mental health nursing, and possession of a current license by the New York State Education Department as a Registered Nurse; or:
- E. Graduation from a regionally accredited or New York State registered or university with a Master's Degree in rehabilitation counseling, psychology, social work, public health administration, hospital administration, human services administration, business administration, or other equivalent degrees.

## EXPERIENCE

Five years of progressively responsible clinical and/or administrative experience in a governmental, private, not-for-profit, or proprietary program providing services for people who have a diagnosis of mental illness, mental retardation, developmental disability, alcoholism, or substance abuse. At least two of the five years shall include functioning in an administrative capacity for the management of a program in which the candidate was responsible for the overall direction and control of an identifiable organizational unit or program. Such experience shall be specifically related to the powers and duties of the Director of community Services in accordance with Section 102.7 of the New York State Health Department Code and Article 41 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

NOTE: All appointees to the position of COMMISSIONER OF MENTAL HEALTH must be approved by The New York State Inter-Office Coordinating Council.

The starting annual salary is \$96,416. Competitive benefits package includes comprehensive health, dental and vision coverage and NYS retirement.

## **FINAL CANDIDATES MUST SUBMIT TO A FINGERPRINT CHECK AND CRIMINAL HISTORY AND BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION**

Please send Cover letter, Resume and Salary Requirements to:

Commissioner of Personnel, Mr. David Palmer

95 Franklin Street, 6th Floor

Buffalo, NY 14202

Resumes are due by February 17th

Erie County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

[www.erie.gov](http://www.erie.gov)